<center>REMARKS</center>

The present application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 1, 2008. Claims 12-24, 32, and 33 are presented for examination, of which Claims 12, 16, 19, 20, 22, and 24 are in independent form. Claims 1-11 and 25-31 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 12, 16, 19, 20, 22, and 24 have been amended to define aspects of Applicants' invention more clearly. Favorable consideration is requested.

The Office Action states that Claims 12-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,031,818 (*Lo et al.*) in veiw of U.S. Patent No. 6,222,841 (*Taniguchi*). Applicants submit that independent Claims 12, 16, 19, 20, 22, and 24, together with the claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

Claim 12 is directed to an information processing apparatus for processing a data stream inputted via a network. The information processing apparatus includes: (1) an input unit for inputting a data stream having hierarchically-encoded data via a network; (2) an interrupted-stream storage unit for storing an interrupted stream generated by interrupting the data stream; (3) an interrupt information storage unit for storing interrupt information associated with the interrupted stream; and (4) an output unit for outputting the interrupted stream stored in the interrupted-stream storage unit, in response to a request for outputting the data stream. The interrupt information is at least one of: a compression ratio, a signal-to-noise ratio, and a number of layers of the data stream.

Notable features of the information processing apparatus according to Claim 12 include an interrupt information storage unit that stores interrupt information associated with an

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interrupted stream, and an output unit that outputs the interrupted stream stored in the interrupted-stream storage unit, in response to a request for outputting a data stream, wherein the interrupt information is at least one of: a compression ratio, a signal-to-noise ratio, and a number of layers of the data stream. By virtue of these features, efficient communication can be attained of hierarchically-encoded data taht is encloded according to the JPEG2000 standard, for example.[1]

Lo et al. relates to a system for correcting errors in a packet switching network. Lo et al. discusses that a playback buffer stores packets, each of which includes a payload field and mulitple header fields (col. 4, lines 24-27). Apparently, a pkt_length field specifies a length of a payload field (col. 5, lines 3-5). As best understood by Applicants, the playback buffer disclosed by Lo et al. does not store a compression ratio, a signal-to-noise ratio, or a number of layers of a data stream.

Taniguchi relates to a data transmission system that processes real-time, packet stream data, such as video data or audio data. As best understood by Applicants, Taniguchi is silent regarding an interrupt information storage unit that stores a compression ratio, a signal-to-noise ratio, or a number of layers of a data stream.

Based on the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that a combination of Lo et al. and Taniguchi, assuming such combination would even be permissible, would fail to teach or suggest "an interrupt information storage unit for storing interrupt information associated with the interrupted stream" and "an output unit for outputting the interrupted stream stored in said

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1/ The example(s) presented herein are intended for illustrative purposes only. Any details presented in the illustrative example(s) should not be construed to limit the scope of the claims.

interrupted-stream storage unit, in response to a request for outputting the data stream, wherein the interrupt information is at least one of: a compression ratio, a signal-to-noise ratio, and a number of layers of the data stream," as recited in Claim 12. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 12 is patentable over *Lo et al.* and *Taniguchi*, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).
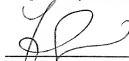
Independent Claims 16, 19, 20, 22, and 24 include features similar to those discussed above, in which at least one of a compression ratio, a signal-to-noise ratio, and a number of layers of the data stream are stored and output in response to a request. Therefore, those claims also are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. The other rejected claims in this application depend from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim also is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and an early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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